
*Riveting Reads* is the latest in a series of booklists or bibliographies of children’s books published by the SLA. The series, which dates from 2005, is designed to help what Kevin Crossley-Holland, President of the SLA, describes in his foreword as the ‘go-betweens’ – children’s librarians and teachers. Previous works in this series have focused on different age groups or different themes – for example, sport, fantasy or getting boys into books. The present work was created with Reading for Pleasure in mind – a campaign promoted by OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills) and the DfE (Department for Education) in the UK. The campaign’s title refers to the finding in the 2002 OECD report, *Reading for change*, that ‘reading for pleasure is the single most important indicator of future success’.

There are 12 genre lists contained in this issue: Family and Friends, Folk and Fairy Tales, Historic Hits, It’s a Mystery, Laugh out Loud, Our Wider World, Out of the World, Picture Fiction, Poetry, Scary Stories, Thrill Seekers and Wild Thing. Each chapter recommends about a dozen books with a short summary of the story, pithy remarks by the authors and a recommended reading age. As convenor of a ‘tween’ book club looking for monthly reading suggestions, I was excited to discover this potentially useful programming resource.

The appendix acknowledges that any list is bound to become redundant quickly. Further resources likely to help those in search of the next best read are listed: organisations like the School Library Association and Booktrust, magazines and journals like *Carousel* and *Books for keeps* and websites such as www.readingzone.com and www.lovereading4kids.co.uk. The book concludes with indexes of authors and titles.

As a UK publication, this does tend to be rather British in orientation. An analysis of three of the themed lists produced about a 40 per cent hit rate in terms of finding titles in my library service. Publications such as *Who next…? A guide to children’s authors* by Viv Warren and Mary Yardley cover more diverse genres and age ranges, but they lack the summaries and informed commentary of the publication under review, merely providing lists of authors. The closest Australian equivalent to *Riveting reads* would have to be *Don’t leave childhood without…* by the Specialist Children’s Booksellers group. Like *Riveting reads*, this is a slim publication but offers only age groupings or rather predictable subject categories such as Fairy Tales and Classics. Whilst it does include summaries of content, again it lacks helpful commentary.

*Riveting reads: 9-13* provides an alternative approach to reader’s advisory: it is a model which could be usefully adapted in other regions or serve as a useful addition to an existing reference collection.

Alex Daw

Moreton Bay Regional Council